Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The citizens of South Dakota stand firmly committed to quality after school programs and opportunities; and,

Whereas, After school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills. They also provide support for working families by making sure their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and,

Whereas, After school programs build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults, and advance the welfare of our children; and,

Whereas, More than 77 percent of children in South Dakota have all available parents working outside the home, and more than 48,000 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school across the state; and,

Whereas, *Lights On Afterschool,* a national celebration of after school programs, promotes the critical importance of quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and,

Whereas, South Dakota has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality after school programs are essential to helping our children become successful adults:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 17, 2013, as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge parents, elected officials, and community members to recognize the importance of after school programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Patricia K Miller

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State